GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3216
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2017
Increase in Horticulture Production
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is marginal increase of Horticulture production during 2016-2017 as compared to 2015-16 despite good monsoon last year, if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

(b) whether there is steep fall in the production of vegetables during the current year, if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Government to increase the horticulture production in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): The horticulture production of the country during 2016-17 is estimated to be around 287 million tonnes which is marginally higher (0.3%) as compared to 2015-16 which was 286 million tonnes.

(b): There is no steep fall in the production of vegetables during the current year. Production of vegetables in the current year is estimated to be around 168.6 million tonnes which is almost same as previous year which was 169.0 million tonnes.

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(c): This Ministry has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme - Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for the holistic development of horticulture sector in the country covering fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and bamboo. Mission subsumes National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Horticulture Mission for North East & Himalayan States (HMNEH), National Bamboo Mission (NBM), National Horticulture Board (NHB), Coconut Development Board (CDB) and Central Institute for Horticulture (CIH), Nagaland. All States including Himalayan states and UTs are covered under MIDH.

The Mission envisages production and productivity improvement of horticulture crops including fruits and vegetables through various interventions. Activities such as production of planting material, vegetable seed production, coverage of area with improved cultivars, protected cultivation, creation of water resources, adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), organic farming, including in situ generation of organic inputs are taken up for development of fruits and vegetables. Capacity buildings of farmers and technologies are also an integral part of MIDH for adopting improved technologies. The Scheme also envisages creation of infrastructure for post harvest management (like pack houses, cold storage units, pre-cooling units and refrigerated vans) and marketing for better price realization of produce.

Under MIDH, following steps have been taken to promote Horticulture in the country:

â€¢ Production and supply of quality planting material continue to be a high priority area for horticulture development during XII Plan. In this context, special emphasis is being laid for establishment of Hi-tech nurseries having provision for mother /scion blocks of improved varieties, good quality rootstock banks and hi-tech green house. Besides, planting material is channelized through accredited nurseries. National Horticulture Board and Central Institute for Horticulture (CIH), Nagaland have taken up the task of accrediting the nurseries.

â€¢ Establishment of crop based Centers of Excellence encouraged in each State to serve as a hub for supply of planting material and dissemination of technology to farmers.
â€¢ Horticulture is emerging as a prospective sector for replacing tobacco cultivation. High priority is given for promoting remunerative horticulture crops for weaning away tobacco cultivation.

â€¢ Area expansion programme has been linked to availability of quality planting material through accredited nurseries and Tissue Culture units. Importance is given for covering more area under vegetable hybrids and export oriented varieties of ginger, turmeric & chillies. High density planting and tree canopy management of orchards, right from establishment stage, is given focus to derive better yield. Besides, an integrated approach is being encouraged for taking up drip irrigation / mulching and other support systems required for cultivation of fruit and plantation crops.

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â€¢ Rejuvenation of old and unproductive orchards continue to be a focus area for enhancing productivity, profitability and sustainability.

â€¢ Major thrust is on protected cultivation, particularly of high value crops, in green house, shade net house, plastic mulching etc.

â€¢ Creation of infrastructure for post harvest managements and value addition also continue with focus on creating cold chain networks.

â€¢ Setting up of markets infrastructure has been linked with reforms in APMC Act, for permitting direct marketing of horticulture produce.

â€¢ Mobilization of farmers into producer groups/organizations is another priority area aimed at strengthening their negotiating power, besides functioning as viable farmer groups involved in production and marketing of horticulture produce.

â€¢ Human resource development is being given thrust for capacity building of farmers, horticulture entrepreneurs / supervisors and field functionaries.

â€¢ Under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), states are given fund for development of horticulture. States may utilize this fund to develop horticulture in the non-MIDH districts/development blocks also.

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